

Small Group Discussion Guide

April 12

1. The sermon opened with the idea that locking doors feels rational when the world feels threatening. Where in your life right now — personally, professionally, or spiritually — are you most tempted to lock the door? What's driving that?
2. The disciples were afraid for real reasons — the same powers that killed Jesus were still in Jerusalem. How do you distinguish between wise caution and fearful withdrawal in your own life as a follower of Jesus?
3. Jesus doesn't wait for the disciples to get over their fear before he commissions them — he walks into the locked room and sends them anyway. What does that tell us about how God tends to work with us in seasons of fear or uncertainty?
4. Bonhoeffer argued that being in Christ and being in the church community are essentially the same thing — that Jesus so identifies with his church that its authority is his authority. How does that change the way you think about your own commitment to and participation in a local church?
5. Of the five factors — Encounter Jesus, Inhabit his Peace, Embrace being Sent, Receive the Holy Spirit, Recognize the Authority of the Church — which one creates the most friction for you personally, and why?